09/819,654

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 5-12, and 14-31 are all the claims pending in the application. Claim 4 is canceled, above. Claims 1, 3, 5-12, and 14-31 stand rejected on prior art grounds. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections based on the following discussion.

I. The Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 17-19, 21, 23-27, 29, and 31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over Microsoft Outlook 2000 SR-1, hereinafter "Microsoft". Claims 20, and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Microsoft and Tognazzini (U.S. Patent No. 5,790,974). Claims 6, 9-11, 14-16, 22, and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Borovoy et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,842,009) and Microsoft. Claim 12 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Borovoy et al. and Microsoft as applied to claim 9, and further in view of Tognazzini. Claims 20 and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) § as being unpatentable over Microsoft, in view of Tognazzini. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections based on the following discussion.

A. The Rejection Based on Microsoft

Microsoft is utilized in the rejection to show that a calendar can occupy all of the viewable surface of a graphic user interface. Further, the Office Action argues that the limitations regarding the calendar being the only point from which all other graphic user interface applications operating on the computer are launched is merely an intended use of the application. However, Applicants respectfully disagree with this reasoning because Microsoft Outlook and all other conventional calendaring programs must be initiated from a desktop or similar separate graphic user interface. To the contrary, the claimed invention replaces the conventional desktop (with its disorganized icons) with a schedule having icons logically related to items within the

9

09/819,654

schedule. With the claimed invention, the user is initially presented with the inventive calendar schedule instead of a desktop. If, as the office action suggests, one intended use of Microsoft Outlook is a point from which to launch other applications, the user would still have to traverse the desktop in order to initiate the Microsoft Outlook calendering program. Further, the user would still always have the option of returning to the desktop to initiate other applications. To the contrary, with the claimed invention since the only way to access other programs is through the schedule or calendar, the calendar actually replaces the conventional desktop. Therefore, the claimed invention is more than an intended use, but instead is a fundamentally different graphic user interface provided to the user because the claimed invention replaces the conventional desktop with a schedule having icons logically arranged with items in a schedule.

The invention conceptually changes the way in which users access graphic user interface computer applications. With the invention, instead of accessing graphic user interface computer applications through disk operating systems (DOS), Windows-based systems, icon-based systems, etc. the invention provides a schedule or calendar as the main graphic user interface from which all other graphic user interface computer applications are launched. Therefore, the invention is significantly different from the Microsoft reference because the invention does more than expand the size of the schedule to occupy the entire graphic user interface. Instead, the invention makes the schedule the only launching point for all other graphic user interface computer applications.

For example, independent claim 1 defines, in addition to the "schedule occupying all of said viewable surface" the "schedule comprises the only point from which all other graphic user interface computer applications operating on said computer are launched." Independent claims 5, 17, 21, 25, and 29 define the same feature using similar language. This feature is not disclosed by Microsoft or any of the remaining prior art of record. To the contrary, all prior art references of record describe calendaring programs that are launched by disk operating systems (DOS), Windows-based systems, icon-based systems, etc., and are designed to run in parallel with other graphic user interface computer applications that are similarly launched from the same disk operating systems (DOS), Windows-based systems, icon-based systems, etc. None of the prior

10

09/819,654

art of record describes that a calendar or schedule should be the only launching point for all other graphic user interface computer applications.

With the claimed invention, the calendar is the only item on the screen and no other icons are included on desktop and all files/programs are accessed only from the calendar desktop. In other words, the calendar occupies the entire viewable surface of the graphic user interface and is the only point from which all other applications are launched. Icons are shown within the time slot of the schedule and are utilized to launch the various graphic user interface computer applications (see page 4, line 12-page 5, line 2 of the specification).

Thus, it is Applicants position that the prior art of record does not teach or suggest a "schedule occupying all of said viewable surface" the "schedule comprises the only point from which all other graphic user interface computer applications operating on said computer are launched" as defined by independent claim 1 and similarly defined by independent claims 5, 17, 21, 25, and 29. Therefore, Applicants submit that independent claims 1, 5, 17, 21, 25, and 29 are patentable over the prior art of record. Further, dependent claims 3, 7, 8, 18, 19, 23, 24, 26-27, and 31 are similarly patentable not only because they depend from a patentable independent claim, but also because of the additional features of the invention they define. In view of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

B.   The Rejections Based on Microsoft and Tognazzini

As shown above, Microsoft does not disclose that the "schedule comprises the only point from which all other graphic user interface computer applications operating on said computer are launched" as defined by independent claim 1 and similarly defined by independent claims 17 and 25. Tognazzini is referenced for the limited purpose of showing that a time slot can dynamically change an appointment time depending on real-time location information and does not teach or suggest that the schedule comprises the only point from which all other graphic user interface computer applications are launched. Therefore, the proposed combination of Microsoft and Tognazzini does not teach or suggest the invention defined by independent claims 1, 17, and 25

11

09/819,654

and similarly does not teach the features defined by dependent claims 20, and 28. In view of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw these rejections.

C. The Rejection Based on Borovoy and Microsoft

As shown above, Microsoft does not disclose that the "schedule comprises the only point from which all other graphic user interface computer applications operating on said computer are launched" as defined by independent claim 6 and similarly defined by independent claims 22 and 30. Borovoy is referenced for the limited purpose of showing that a query can be automatically from entries within a calendar and does not teach or suggest that the schedule comprises the only point from which all other graphic user interface computer applications are launched. Therefore, the proposed combination of Microsoft and Borovoy does not teach or suggest the invention defined by independent claims 6, 9, 14, 22 and 30 and similarly does not teach the features defined by dependent claims 10, 11, 15, and 16. In view of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

D. The Rejection Based on Borovoy and Microsoft in view of Tognazzini

As shown above, Microsoft does not disclose that the "schedule comprises the only point from which all other graphic user interface computer applications operating on said computer are launched" as defined by independent claim 9. Tognazzini is referenced for the limited purpose of showing that a time slot can dynamically change an appointment time depending on real-time location information and Borovoy is referenced for the limited purpose of showing that a query can be formed automatically from entries within a calendar and neither reference teaches or suggests that the schedule comprises the only point from which all other graphic user interface computer applications are launched. Therefore, the proposed combination of Microsoft, Tognazzini, and Borovoy does not teach or suggest the invention defined by independent claim 9 and similarly does not teach the features defined by dependent claim 12. In view of the

12

09/819,654

foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

II. Formal Matters and Conclusion

With respect to claims 4 and 9 being duplicates, claim 4 is canceled, above. In addition, claim 12 has been amended to remove antecedent basis issues. In view of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the objection to claims 4 and 9 and the rejection of claim 12.
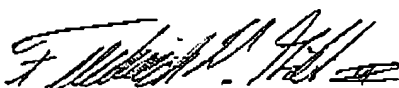
In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claims 1, 3, 5-12, and 14-31, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct from the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary.

Please charge any deficiencies and credit any over payments to Attorney's Deposit Account Number 09-0441.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 8/11/05

Frederick W. Gibb, III
Reg. No. 37,629

McGinn & Gibb, P.L.L.C.
2568-A Riva Road
Suite 304
Annapolis, MD 21401
(301) 261-8071
Customer Number: 29154

13